

6/4/72

Mr. Ed Baldwin
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Dear Mr. Baldwin,

Pershing Gervais should remember me. Although it has not been reported around here, I am generally familiar with his current situation, have read the affidavit in the case in which he is involved with some care, know what has been reported and aired in New Orleans until a few days ago, and I have been writing a magazine article.

As a matter of fact, if there were any purpose in it, this could rapidly become a book (that would not displease the Pershing I knew).

When the news of the charges first broke, I did not believe what Pershing had done was voluntary. My own correspondence and many conversations of that period with lawyers and others in New Orleans will confirm this. I had a reason in particular that may at some time interest Pershing and you as his lawyer.

Long before any of the affair began, or at least I think before it began, in December 1968 or January 1969, in the presence of a friend of mine, Pershing asked a small favor of me that in my non-lawyer's view very much addresses his alleged reason for doing what he did and discredits it.

In addition, I have been researching a book I intend to write at some time in the future, tentatively titled "I, Spy". What Pershing now claims is not nearly as farout as it may seem. And there are cases where the FBI went to more trouble and expense than they did with Pershing.

The essence of all of my recent research, investigation and writing is the integrity of government, particularly the Department of Justice and the FBI. False swearing, even perjury, has become the norm, as has the destruction and the manufacture of evidence. If Pershing has become the victim of any such impropriety, as has been my belief from the first, I think he knows that if I can help him I will.

I wish I could now get to New Orleans and talk to him. I understand there is to be a hearing on the 12th. However, if one of the people with whom he dealt is Joseph Tafe, perhaps something in my files may interest you and help accredit him.

Please wish him good luck for me.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Mr. Baldwin- Afterthought

If Pershing mentions any more names, I'd be interested in knowing them. Those that have been attributed to him and of which I know include one of what to me is special significance and all are in the right place to credit what he says.

It will take some time, but I'll probably get copies of what appears in the New Orleans papers. I'll also probably get transcripts of what is on TV news. I have every reason to expect more on TV. In fact, I know there will be more.

If there are others of which he can think, I'd like to be able to check them. Although Pershing is by no means backward, when he is interviewed he may not be asked questions relating to all those with whom he dealt hence he may have no occasion to recall or mention some names.

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